

ANTH 70
PSYCHOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Fall 2013

Class times: M, W 1:15-02:30
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Psychological anthropology is the study of the interaction between culture (shared ways of life, values, and conceptions) and the intimate level of psychological functioning. Its hallmark is “person-centered” research, that is, studies that focus on individuals’ beliefs, feelings, and experiences in particular sociocultural settings. We will focus on cultural variation in child rearing, emotions, mental illness, dreams, personal narratives, and conceptions of the life course. We will also study different methods (observations, interviews, life story analysis, cultural dream analysis) and theories psychological anthropologists use to understand how culture shapes self (behavioral modeling, Vygotskian learning theories, cognitive schemas, and psychodynamic theories). Thus we will go beyond nature-nurture discussions to consider different theories of cultural construction and the practical implications of those theories.

Books (available at Huntley and on reserve at Honnold)

Nancy Eberhardt, *Imagining the Course of Life: Self-Transformation in a Shan Buddhist Community*
Willett Kempton, James S. Boster, Jennifer A. Hartley, *Environmental Values in American Culture*
Emily Martin, *Bipolar Expeditions: Mania and Depression in American Culture*

In addition, there will be many readings available on the course website. Please bring them to class (hard copy or virtual).

Course website on Sakai (sakai.claremont.edu)

Almost everything you need for the course is posted on Sakai. You'll find there all of the readings that do not come from one of the course books, explanations to accompany the readings and questions to prepare for class discussion, my power point lectures, and relevant announcements. The syllabus and assignment instructions will be posted there, and you'll submit written assignments there as well.

You can use the Sakai chat room for questions to the class, to continue discussion on course topics, or for announcements the class might be interested in.

If you have problems with Sakai, please call or email me right away.

Overview of assignments

All written assignments should be submitted under Assignments at our Sakai site. Don't leave them in the Drop Box. It's a good idea to compose in your word processing program, then copy into the assignment box. Please use the clipboard icon to copy and paste to avoid messy formatting marks.

*Reading comments: You are responsible for turning in comments on six of the readings. Your comments should summarize the main points of the readings (about one paragraph) and give your reactions to them. Do you agree or disagree? Can you think of examples from your own experience? What questions do the readings raise? Your reading comments should be about a page long, and will be graded with a check, plus, or minus based on how carefully you did the reading and how much thought you put into your commentary. You should reference specific page numbers in the reading. The writing can be informal; typos and sentence fragments are okay. Additional comments will give you extra credit in the reading comments component of your grade if they are satisfactory (check or better). Try to submit reading comments by noon of the day we are discussing that reading, so I can respond to comments and questions in my lecture. **Reading comments will not be accepted after class starts.**

*Wiki Discussion Group Project: Group analysis on Sakai Wiki page of one of the many recent books about what Americans can learn about parenting from other societies. This will be graded on the same scale as the exercises and contribute to your exercise grade.

*Exercises: There are four mandatory exercises in which you will apply methods of psychological anthropology. These are not formal papers (e.g., sentence fragments are acceptable). Exercises will be graded on the basis of your research effort, thought effort, and understanding of the reading on a 12-point scale (A = 12, A- = 11, B+ = 10 etc.). Late exercises will lose 2 points/day.

*Term paper: Your major project for the semester is an original research project on any topic you wish in psychological anthropology. The paper should be about 15 double-spaced pages long. Your term paper proposal is due by October 29 and the paper is due December 17. A late term paper loses 1 point/day.

*Test: There will be a take-home final exam due December 6.

*Poster presentations: You will give a poster presentation of your term paper research.

*Class participation: You should be prepared to answer the questions listed at Sakai in connection with each class. I may call on people at random.

*Attendance: You cannot pass the course if you have many unexcused absences. Please let me know in advance if an emergency will keep you from coming to class.

Learning Outcomes

- *Recognize intra- and intercultural diversity of values and beliefs about psychological normality, human development, and the nature of the self and emotions.
- *Understand the implications of different theoretical paradigms in psychological anthropology.
- *Assess when claims about psychological universals or differences are credible and when they derive from the researchers' cultural norms.
- * Be able to relativize—or doubt the absoluteness of—taken-for-granted concepts in your own lives.
- *Conduct and insightfully analyze original research applying methods of psychological anthropology.
- * Comprehend and critically analyze scholarly works.
- * Write accurate and thoughtful reading comments, and a cogent research paper.

Grading

Reading comments: 20%

Cultural Models exercise: 8%

Other exercises, including group project (total): 16%

Term paper: 30%

Final exam: 20%

Poster presentation, class participation & attendance: 6%

Readings are to be completed for the class on the date listed. Always check the online assignment (click on the Assignments link at Sakai) for background information and any changes to the reading. Updates will also be indicated in the online syllabus.

Sakai = available at our Sakai website (click on Resources)

Imagining = *Imagining the Course of Life*

Bipolar = *Bipolar Expeditions*

Environmental = *Environmental Values in American Culture*

DATE	TOPICS & ASSIGNMENTS
9/4	Introduction to the course Recommended: Strauss, "Psychological Anthropology"
	CONCEPTS OF SELF, LIFE COURSE & CHILD REARING
9/9	Ochs & Izquierdo, "Responsibility in Childhood: Three Developmental Trajectories" Sakai
9/11	Chapin, "'We Have to Give': Sinhala Mothers' Responses to Children's Expression of Desire" Sakai Jayson, "Passport parenting" : http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/05/09/moms-advice-world-cultures/2131505/ Exercise due: Behavior observation
9/16	Imagining , Ch. 1 (you can skip or skim the "Selves & Lives" section from pp. 3-7) & Ch. 4
9/18	Kusserow, "De-Homogenizing American Individualism" Sakai In class: Watch <i>Preschool in Three Cultures</i>
9/23	Due: Oral summary of group forum discussion on passport parenting
	COGNITIVE ANTHROPOLOGY
9/25	deMunck et al., "Cross-Cultural Analysis of Models of Romantic Love Among U.S. residents, Russians, and Lithuanians" Sakai Recommended: Bernard, excerpt from <i>Social Research Methods</i> , pp. 264-276 Sakai Exercise due: Ask someone to free list associations with romantic love
9/30	Quinn and Holland, "Culture and cognition" Sakai Environmental , Chs. 1 & 2 (skim)
10/2	Environmental , Chs. 3, 5, 8 Recommended: Strauss, "How to conduct good interviews" Sakai Plan cultural models exercise
10/7	Strauss, "What Makes Tony Run" Sakai Part 1 of cultural models exercise due: Interview transcript; bring to class
10/9	Holland and Valsiner, "Cognition, Symbols, and Vygotsky's Developmental Psychology" Sakai Strauss, "Language and culture in cognitive anthropology," pp. 14-16
*10/10	Cultural models analysis due; submit on Sakai
	PSYCHOANALYTIC ANTHROPOLOGY
10/14	Bock, <i>Rethinking Psychological Anthropology</i> , pp. 23-32 Sakai Kracke, "Kagwahiv Mourning: Dreams of a Bereaved Father" Sakai Recommended: Freud, excerpt from "The Dream-Work" in <i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> Sakai
10/16	Gergen and Gergen, "Narrative and the self as relationship" Sakai (up to section V, p. 40) Plan narrative or dream exercise

10/21	FALL BREAK
10/23	Imagining , Ch. 7
*10/24	Exercise due: Narrative or dream analysis
10/28	Herdt, Excerpt from <i>The Sambia</i> Sakai In class: Watch <i>Guardians of the Flutes</i>
*10/29	Term paper proposal due; email to me
	EMOTIONS AND CULTURE
10/30	Ekman, Sorenson, and Friesen, "Pan-cultural elements in facial displays of emotion" (the article starts at the bottom of the page) Sakai Ekman, "Facial expressions of emotion" Sakai
11/4	Mesquita & Frijda, "Cultural variations in emotions" Sakai
11/6	CS out of town, NO CLASS Cage Hall, "Czech models of intimacy, authenticity, and personhood: implications for HIV prevention" Sakai Levy, excerpts from <i>Tahitians</i> Sakai
	MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL ILLNESS, AND CULTURE
11/11	Anderson-Fye, "A 'Coca-Cola' Shape: Cultural Change, Body Image, And Eating Disorders In San Andrés, Belize" Sakai
11/13	Bipolar , Preface & Introduction
11/18	Bipolar , Chapter 1, "Personhood and Emotion" & Obeyesekere, "Depression, Buddhism, and the work of culture in Sri Lanka" Sakai
11/20	AAA starts, NO CLASS Bipolar , Chapter 2, 5, 6 + Conclusion
11/25	Seligman & Kirmayer, "Dissociative Experience and Cultural Neuroscience: Narrative, Metaphor and Mechanism" Sakai
11/27	Thanksgiving travel, NO CLASS
12/2	In-class: Review for take-home exam
12/4	Poster presentations
*12/6	Take home exam due, submit on Sakai
12/9	Poster presentations
12/11	Last class
*12/17	Paper due, submit on Sakai

*not a class day